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Dick Rosengarten, Publisher

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L.A MAYOR'S RACE: THE ENDORSEMENT GAME.

Editor's note: The big news this past week in the L.A. Mayor's race was the 1-day visit on May 18 of Pres. Bill Clinton(D) and his endorsement of L.A. Councilman Michael Woo. Here is CALPEEK's update & analysis of the June 8th runoff...

• **Clinton's Endorsement** - Was it important? Is it a plus for Woo? The headlines on the Metro page of the L.A. Times on May 19 said it best, "Clinton Endorses Woo, but Doesn't Bash Riordan." In addition, The President said people shouldn't put too much emphasis on endorsements, and he even said he had no idea if his support for Woo would help. But there's much more. CNN's Dan Blackburn reported that Woo's rival, businessman Richard Riordan, got a personal phone call from Clinton's C-O-S Mack McLarty, in which McLarty reportedly told Riordan that both Bill and Hillary Clinton have the highest regard for Riordan and that they will have no problem working with him should he be elected. The L.A. Times also carried part of this story, but it was buried at the end of their article. Does the Clinton endorsement help? Yes, but it's unclear how much. It certainly got Woo a **ton** of *positive* news media exposure. Did Clinton have to give his endorsement? Yes. Woo was an early supporter and if Clinton had refused, it would have hurt both. Overall, on a 1-to-10 scale, insiders rate the Clinton endorsement as a 5 or 6 -- no higher...

• **Other Endorsements** - The day after, it was Riordan's turn to score points by announcing the endorsement of L.A. Councilman Richard Alatorre. Alatorre has been hanging back, waiting to see how the race would develop before going public. It's a key endorsement for Riordan because two other well known Hispanic elected leaders, L.A. Co. Sup. Gloria Molina and Demo Assemblyman Richard Polanco, are backing Woo. Alatorre's announcement, which was well attended by the news media, came 2 days after L.A. Council President John Ferraro publicly endorsed Riordan and called Woo a "snot-nosed kid." And it takes a lot to make the very popular and likable Ferraro mad...

• **CDP/Woo Endorsement Update** - Don't look for AG Dan Lungren(R) to step in and go after the CA Demo Party for its illegal endorsement of Woo. Under Article II, Section 6(b) of the Calif. Constitution, political parties are prohibited from endorsing in nonpartisan races. However, in a 1992 letter from Dep. AG Ted Prim (for Lungren) to the legal counsel for the CDP, Prim essentially said that while such endorsements may be illegal, the AG has bigger fish to fry and won't get involved should parties endorse in local races. The best quote on the nonpartisan nature of the L.A. mayor's race has been offered by CDP political director Bob Mulholland, who said, "Only a college professor could think that this is a nonpartisan race."...

5TH A.D. SPECIAL: LOW TURNOUT EXPECTED, AS INSIDERS THINK IT'S ALBY'S RACE TO WIN OR LOSE.

Editor's note: As the May 25 primary special to replace the late B.T. Collins in the 5th Assembly District draws to a close, here is CALPEEK's final update & analysis on this special election in Sacramento...

...Many insiders, but not all, think this is Barbara Alby's race to win or lose. With a very low voter turnout anticipated (20-25%), Alby has the best name ID and probably the strongest base of support of all the Republicans in this special. Her GOTV effort on election day will be awesome, with hundreds of hardline conservative volunteers being bused into the 5th A.D. True, she also has **high negatives**, but with 5 other solid GOP candidates in this race, the anti-Alby vote will be badly split. This is why some insiders think Alby has a good shot at winning this primary...

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...Could one of the other Republicans overtake Alby?? It's possible. Carol Bass has fairly strong name ID from a previous but unsuccessful run for county supervisor, and lots of her own money. She has pumped out 3 absentee ballot mailings and is letting moderate/Wilson Republicans know that she's the only Pro-Choice candidate in the GOP field. (FYI: as CALPEEK went to press, there were some 20,000 absentee ballot applications on file with the Sacto Co. registrar)...

...Among the more conservative alternatives to Alby, some sources put their money on Ted Costa, head of the People's Lobby. Costa's anti-TAX message is very strong and he might be able to attract enough moderate and older Demo voters to squeak under the wire. Lou Barnett, the favorite of some Wilsonites and hardliners alike, probably doesn't have the base of support necessary to pull this off, but his campaign theme of, "The Man Willie Brown Fears Most," is pretty good. (FYI: both Barnett and Costa also mailed AV applications to voters)...

...*The Money Game*: the winner among all the candidates was GOPer Clayton Fong, who raised $104,000 (with a $22,000 loan to himself). Bass raised $87,000 (with a $50,000 loan to herself); Alby $61,000 (with a $25,000 loan); Costa $42,000; Barnett $50,000; and Mark Baughman with $18,000. These figures are as of mid-May, so more money has rolled in...

...As for Fong, he may have raised the most money, but the Sacramento BEE *trashed* Fong in an editorial the likes of which haven't been seen in some time. They said he "parachuted in to the district" and that he's an "empty vessel" when it comes to understanding district or State problems and their solutions. "He represents modern careerist politics at its worst." By comparison, the shots the BEE took at Alby were mild (they mentioned her ideological rigidity). As one Alby supporter told CALPEEK, "The BEE's endorsement was a plus for Barbara." The BEE actually surprised many by endorsing Demo Joan Berry...

...FYI: The Demos are holding back for now, waiting to see who wins both primaries. If Alby is the GOP victor, look for the Demos to go all out **if** Halhan is the Demo nominee. If Berry is the nominee, there won't be that much enthusiasm. Berry is a *perennial candidate* who ran against Collins twice and lost. Halnan is the president of the San Juan Unified School District and thus has proven electability. She's won backing from most of the major education groups. Halnan raised $39,000, while Berry didn't file a statement. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S ETCETERA: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

- **Herschensohn in 1994??** - There is a rumor making the rounds that 1992 GOP U.S. Senate candidate Bruce Herschensohn might be taking a serious look at running once again in 1994. Although BH was very flattered by a recent article in Human Events Magazine, speculation in that article that he might run in 1994 is off base, according to a source who spoke directly to BH several days ago...

- **Sacramento Siege II** - Now that the 1st "Citizens Siege of Sacto" is in the history books, plans are underway for "Siege II," tentatively set for June 16th. The "siege" is to protest the proposed shifting of $2.6 billion in Prop. 13 bail-out money from the cities and counties to local schools. Groups and organizations who took part in the May 19th event included ABAG, local elected officials, business leaders, CSAC, the BIA and AFSCME. Sacto-based consultant Phil Giarrizzo was the coordinator...

- **DiFi Warns of Illegal Immigrant Backlash** - U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein(D-CA) has correctly predicted that unless the feds do something to stem the flow of illegal immigrants across Calif.'s border, it could result in what she called "a terrible backlash." Put another way, DiFi has spotted one of the key issues in her 1994 reelection campaign. Bottomline: Pres. Clinton had better stop making excuses and do something because the illegal immigrant situation is costing Calif. a small fortune --- $300 million alone in housing illegals in State prisons for felony crimes...

- **CALPEEK's 1st Movie Review** - Not that we want to compete with the likes of Gene Shalit or Siskel & Ebert, but the new Kevin Kline & Sigourney Weaver movie "**Dave**" is worth seeing if you consider yourself to be a political insider. It's an amusing satire of Potomac politics that warms the heart and you'll get a kick out of all the political insiders who appear in cameo roles...

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L.A. COUNCIL ELECTIONS: WITH TWO WEEKS TO GO BEFORE JUNE 8 RUNOFF, ALL RACES TIGHTEN.
Editor's note: All four remaining L.A. City Council runoffs could be fairly tight by election day, June 8th. Here is CALPEEK's update & analysis...

• **3rd District** - Incumbent Joy Picus, stung by increasing criticism from her opponent and former district aide Laura Chick, is beginning to fight back. At a recent community forum, Picus hit Chick on being a carpetbagger and getting support from "cronies" of Mayor Tom Bradley. There was a time when Picus was a strong ally of Bradley and would never have made such a statement. Picus's new attacks are just another indication that Chick is perceived by insiders as having a good shot at unseating the 4-term incumbent. FYI: Right after the primary, Picus and her fundraising consultant Jill Barad parted company. Picus decided to handle the fundraising in-house. But Barad also runs a very successful **slate** and as a loyal and longtime friend of Picus, she offered the Picus campaign the right of first refusal to be on the slate for June 8. They refused, so Chick will now have an opportunity to be on the Barad slate...

• **15th District** - Incumbent Joan Flores has picked up the endorsements of L.A. Co. Supes Yvonne Burke and Gloria Molina. Both should help Flores in the northern part of the district. Challenger Rudy Svorinich has won endorsements from U.S. Reps. Jane Harman(D) and Maxine Waters(D). Waters support will help Svorinich in Watts, but could backfire in other parts of the district. FYI: As CALPEEK went to press, the Flores campaign announced that both former L.A. Co. Sup. Kenneth Hahn and his daughter, Janice, who ran against Flores in the primary and finished 3rd, would endorse Flores...

• **13th District** - Another coup in this open seat for candidate Tom LaBonge. He has picked up the endorsement of gay/AIDS activist Michael Weinstein, who finished 4th in the primary. Some of Weinstein's supporters were backing LaBonge, but until very recently, Weinstein was neutral. A big setback for the campaign of former school board member Jackie Goldberg...

• **7th District** - Although CALPEEK sources are unwilling to go out on a limb and predict a victory for Fire Capt. Lyle Hall over Bradley aide Richard Alarcon, insiders are reporting that the Alarcon campaign isn't in good shape, especially on the fundraising front. And Hall continues to pick up support from primary rivals. The latest endorsement is from LeRoy Chase. Still, the 7th district has a predominate Hispanic population and if Alarcon can put together a good GOTV effort, then he still may have a shot. Stay tuned...

O'CONNELL TO RUN FOR GARY HART'S SENATE JOB.
It shouldn't be a big shock, but Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Jack O'Connell(D-Santa Barbara) has officially announced his intent to run for State Sen. Gary Hart's 18th S.D. seat in 1994. O'Connell sent out a number of personal letters to friends and colleagues on May 11 announcing his decision and then followed it up with a public announcement in the 35th A.D. and 18th S.D. areas. Hart has already announced that he is retiring from elective politics...

...While the Senate Demo leadership has to feel good about O'Connell's decision, O'Connell will have to fight hard to win this seat. The GOP will probably counter with conservative Assemblywoman Andrea Seastrand, who represents the northern half of the 18th S.D...

...But the bigger question is about who replaces the popular O'Connell in the 35th A.D.? Some of the names which surfaced at the beginning of 1993 have faded or are unavailable --- such as new Santa Barbara Co. Sup. Naomi Schwartz, a former top aide to Hart who was elected last November. Fading from sight is Santa Barbara Co. Sup. Tom Rogers, who recently announced that he was retiring from elective politics at the end of his term. As for Demo political activist and perennial House candidate Anita Perez-Ferguson, she's still a possibility, but as of now she's the campaign training director for the DNC in Washington DC...

...Among the other names to surface are these: Susan Rose(D), former exec. director of the L.A. Co. Comm. on the Status of Women; Ventura Co. Sup. John Flynn (D); Ventura Mayor Greg Carson(R); Bob Ream(D), a staffer in Hart's district office; Santa Barbara Mayor Shelia Lodge(D); and Blas Garza, a highly regarded elementary school principal. As we said, these names have surfaced, but it doesn't mean they are all running. Not yet anyway. Stay tuned...

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L.A. TREASURER BROWNRIDGE ADDRESSES GROUP.
L.A. City Treasurer Paul Brownridge will address members of the L.A. Public Affairs Officers Assn., 11:30 a.m. reception, 12 noon lunch, May 26, The Tower Restaurant, downtown L.A. Brownridge will discuss "Fiscal & Finance Initiatives/Community Re-investments." For info/RSVPs, call Jenny Silver at (213)975-5107...

ORANGE CO. GOP HOSTS "MEET THE MEDIA."
Republican Associates of Orange Co. will host a round table discussion with political and editorial writers from Orange Co.'s major publications, 6-8 p.m., May 27, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Irvine. For info & RSVPs, Janet Klein at (714)832-0337...

CARD CLUB MADNESS: ACTION IN ORANGE CO...
Editor's note: Voters in two Orange Co. cities will go to the polls June 8th to decide whether they will allow **card clubs** in their respective cities. Two other cities in Orange Co. are now exploring the card club issue. Here is our update...

...Of the two Orange Co. cities which will hold elections on card club proposals June 8th, some insiders believe the proposal in **Stanton** is in trouble. The key drawback for this plan is the location --- swap meet owner Art Keuilian wants to convert his building into a card club...

...On the other hand, insiders think the plan facing **Cypress** voters is much more viable, as well as winable. The proponents, Los Alamitos Race Track, want to construct a club at the track --- and that's the key. Gambling already takes place at this location and it's far enough away not to present problems to the Cypress residents. This proposal is very similar to one that was approved by voters in Inglewood last November --- for Hollywood Park. Campaign Management, Inc., which ran the Hollywood Park measure, is running the YES side and sources suspect that the major opposition is coming from committees supported mainly by Bicycle Club manager George Hardie. Hardie's smart and realizes this proposal, when combined with the Hollywood Park card club, could present existing card clubs with major competition. The NO side is already on the air with cable TV ads. The YES side is countering with mail, cable TV and a sophis-ticated GOTV/ground operation. Still, despite a good operation, these card club measures are tough to win...

...Two other cities in Orange Co. are now actively investigating the possibilities of bringing card clubs to their communities --- **Garden Grove** and **Anaheim**. Anaheim, Orange Co.'s 2nd largest city, has been approached by an outfit called Southland Entertainment Properties, Inc. SEP was formed March 26 with the specific purpose of bringing a card club to Anaheim and probably to other cities as well. A public vote would not be necessary in Anaheim, but any action that the council takes would be subject to referendum. It's very early, so there are no decisions as yet...

...FYI: If the card club proposal in Cypress presents a *fairly serious* problem to Bicycle Club general mgr. George Hardie, then the proposed card club in next door **Bellflower** could best be described as a *disaster* for his club in **Bell Gardens**. A partnership of 18 investors wants to put up $40 million to build a 200-table, 2-restaurant club that would create 2,000 jobs. The Bellflower plan would give the city about $10 million each year. The council liked the idea enough to call a special election Aug.10th. Stay tuned...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.
Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

- Joel R. Maliniak has opened his political communications firm in L.A., specializing in press strategy and media relations. (213)651-3605...

- Fred Droz, president of Adler-Droz, Inc., of Costa Mesa, has joined the L.A. mayoral campaign of Michae Woo as director of scheduling...

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